

RECOGNIZING MR. ALLEN
MCQUARRIE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our constituents. His name is Allen McQuarrie and his contribution to our community has been invaluable. For the past fifteen years, Mr. McQuarrie has served as the Chair of the Bucks County chapter of Pro-Act, a grassroots advocacy and recovery support initiative of The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania. In 2002, Allen chaired a meeting to plan PRO-ACT's first Recovery Walk, an event attended by 125 people. Today the Recovery Walk is attended by more than 20,000 people in public view at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, making it the nation's largest recovery walk. Furthermore, he organized a coalition to pursue state enforcement of PA Act 106, which mandates insurance coverage for addiction treatments by medical professionals.

Additionally, Mr. McQuarrie assists our veterans as they transition back to civilian life. Sadly, it has been reported that an estimated one-third of returning veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and/or traumatic brain injury. The medications used to treat these problems can lead to addiction. Without treatment, individuals may self-medicate with drugs or alcohol. PRO-ACT and Mr. McQuarrie have granted veterans a support system that allows them to maintain a healthy life after their service. Mr. McQuarrie is a strong voice for recovery in PA 08, serving as a mentor, trainer, and advocate. I am pleased to honor the achievements of Allen McQuarrie.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARY ANNE METAXAS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Mary Anne Metaxas. Born to William and Mary Jane Metaxas in Columbus, Ohio, she is the youngest of five children. She grew up in New Jersey and spent many of her summers at the Jersey shore. Metaxas enjoyed growing up in a large family and maintains a very close relationship with all of her siblings and their respective families.

Metaxas earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the Florida State University and is a proud Seminoles football fan. After college, Metaxas entered the video production industry and quickly realized her passion for creating entertaining and effective media.

Metaxas soon joined i.d.e.a.s. at Disney MGM Studios, as a freelance Producer. Through this role, she worked on a variety of projects for Fortune 500 companies, theme parks, the Disney Company, museums, and broadcast television. Metaxas stayed with the company, now known as IDEAS, when it transitioned to private ownership in 2001. She has been an integral part of the IDEAS cre-

ative team since its inception, serving as producer, director, post-supervisor, and creative consultant. She currently serves as Vice President of Media Production and leads the creative team on all IDEAS media projects.

Metaxas is both a longtime supporter and volunteer for the Human Rights Campaign. As a Federal Club member, she played an integral role in creating the Orlando HRC community and continues to help nurture its growth. She has served in a volunteer capacity at a variety of local events over the years and attended the HRC National Dinner in Washington, DC with other national leaders.

Metaxas has a special place in her heart for dogs. For many years, she has volunteered for Florida Little Dog Rescue and has fostered too many puppies and dogs to count. She takes great pride in helping to rehabilitate rescued dogs, and feels great joy in seeing them recover and thrive. The care she takes in ensuring her foster dogs are adopted into great homes is commendable. As a sign of gratitude for her commitment, many of the new families keep in touch long after the adoption.

Metaxas can often be seen around Orlando on her vintage-style scooter. She has utilized this passion to help raise money for Libby's Legacy Breast Cancer Foundation's annual "Scooters for Hooters" events. She was named 2010 Fundraising Freak for raising the most donations and has served as captain of the multi-year highest fundraising team. She continues to ride in memory of her beloved mother who passed away in 2001.

Metaxas is an active member of the Orlando community and supports a variety of other local non-profit and political organizations including Hope and Help of Central Florida, Metropolitan Business Association, Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando, and the Zebra Coalition.

Metaxas resides in Orlando, Florida with her spouse Jennifer Foster. On their 10-year anniversary in 2013, the couple was honored to be able to legally marry. They live happily with their three dogs (Matti, Maci, and Patrick), and two cats (Graci and Kevin).

I am happy to honor Mary Anne Metaxas, during LGBT Pride Month, for her professional and civic contributions to the Central Florida community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 340, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I did not participate in the vote of H.R. 316 on June 23, 2014. Unfortunately, I was traveling back from Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and due to inclement weather, I could not get back from my trip in time to vote.

However, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 316.

HONORING PHILMORE GRAHAM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Philmore Graham, who passed away on June 12, 2014, after 75 remarkable years.

Born in North Carolina, Mr. Graham went on to graduate from Tennessee State University, serve our country in the Air Force and finally, build a career at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Notably, he was the first, and to this day remains the only, African American to hold the position of supervisor at Mare Island's Department of Nuclear Energy. Throughout his life, Mr. Graham was steadfastly dedicated to bettering the lives of young people in our community, particularly the lives of young African-American men.

Mr. Graham founded the Continentals of Omega Boys and Girls Club in Vallejo, California, in 1966. What began as six young boys meeting in Mr. Graham's garage has become a thriving organization that enriches the lives of approximately 300 boys and girls today. He mentored scores of young people, offering them support and encouragement and instilling in them the values and principles they needed to succeed. Mr. Graham provided academic support, encouraged involvement in sports and taught young people the importance of perseverance, hard-work and self-respect. Mr. Graham's unwavering passion and dedication to ensuring that our youth had every opportunity to succeed is an inspiration to all. And in turn, Mr. Graham was beloved by all those who were fortunate enough to have known him.

For his good work, Mr. Graham was named the NAACP's Outstanding Citizen of the Year, was awarded the Good Neighbor Award, Salute to America Lifetime Merit Award, Profile of Excellence Award, Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, the "Who's Who" among Black Americans and was repeatedly named the Omega Man of the Year and Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Mr. Graham for his life of service to a grateful community.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 1098, 1281, 3548,
4080, AND 4631

HON. FRED UPTON
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of five bipartisan public health bills that will help individuals with traumatic brain injuries, newborns, burn patients, and those with autism. The Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, under the leadership of Rep. JOE PITTS, has been a workhorse that boasts an outstanding record of bipartisan accomplishment on legislation that truly touches people's lives. With a number of bills already

signed into law, and these under consideration this evening, the 113th Congress is shaping up to be known as the public health Congress.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight each of the five bills before us this evening.

H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act, would address a problem that affects millions of Americans, including both veterans and children. Introduced by Mr. PASCRELL, this bill would assist states in developing and expanding service delivery capacity for individuals with a traumatic brain injury. According to some estimates, the economic burden of such injuries is more than \$70 billion, and the physical and emotional toll endured by patients and their families is even more burdensome. This bill would help alleviate the problems associated with this unique and complex health problem, providing peace of mind to families across the country.

H.R. 1281, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act, introduced by Reps. ROYBAL-ALLARD and SIMPSON, funds grants to allow states to expand their newborn screening programs, educate parents and health care providers, and improve follow-up care for infants diagnosed with a condition. Before the first passage of this bill in 2008, the number and quality of newborn screening tests varied from state to state. Today, with guidelines created by the bill, screenings reach 4 million babies in the United States every year. Reauthorization will continue this important program and encourage more timely efforts to identify diseases, such as Spinal Muscular Atrophy, and ensure best practices. Early screening and diagnosis often means better disease management and better outcomes for these children.

H.R. 3548, the Improving Trauma Care Act, introduced by Energy and Commerce Committee member Rep. BILL JOHNSON, is designed to correct the inconsistencies in the definitions of trauma that have resulted in gaps in care and coverage. This bill will help important trauma centers like Bronson Methodist Hospital's Burn Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan to better care for their patients.

We will also consider H.R. 4080, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emer-

gency Care Reauthorization. Introduced by Energy and Commerce Committee members Dr. BURGESS and Rep. GREEN, the bill reauthorizes two programs related to the planning and development of regional emergency care. Both of these programs will improve trauma care so that Americans can promptly receive specialized, life-saving treatment after a traumatic injury.

Finally we will consider H.R. 4631, the Autism CARES Act of 2014, introduced and championed by Reps. CHRIS SMITH and MIKE DOYLE. The sad reality is that in the United States, autism now affects 1 in 68 children and can cost a family approximately \$60,000 annually. H.R. 4631 continues autism-related research, early identification and intervention, education, and the activities of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee. It also asks the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collaborate with other federal agencies to prepare and submit a report concerning young adults with autism spectrum disorder and the challenges related to their transition into adulthood. Finally, the research funded by this legislation also permits diagnosing and intervening earlier and thus help improve the quality of life for children with autism.

This bill is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Autism Society, and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, which includes over thirty different organizations including Autism Speaks, the Autism National Committee, and the Council for Learning Disabilities.

We began our day in a bipartisan manner advancing the 21st Century Cures initiative and I am pleased to conclude the day by continuing our efforts to advance legislation to improve the public health. It is through these bills and this initiative that we can truly have an impact on the lives of all Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support these bills.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SUNGLASS DAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Sunglass Day and to honor the sunglass manufacturers and suppliers throughout my Dallas Congressional District, the State of Texas and around the country. Texas and the Dallas area are home to a variety of optical industry leaders including 24 optical laboratories that manufacture prescription sun wear, 3 lens manufacturers that supply UV filtering lenses, and 6 sun wear frame suppliers. As a physician, I commend the sunglass industry and their trade association The Vision Council (TVC) for ongoing outreach campaigns to educate consumers regarding the damaging effects of ultraviolet (UV) rays to the eye and healthy vision.

In the case of eye protection, what you don't know can hurt you. When it comes to the human eye and the sun's rays, it's what we can't see that matters most. UV radiation that reaches the earth's surface, made up of two types of invisible rays, UVA and UVB, endangers an unprotected eye. The effects of long-term exposure can include cataracts, macular degeneration, abnormal growths on the eye's surface and even cancer of the eye. While everyone should shield their eyes from UV rays, certain risk factors like age and eye color increase an individual's vulnerability to UV related eye disorders. Where you live and travel can also make a big difference in the level of UV exposure. Since UV damage can't be reversed, prevention through protection is key.

Later this summer, sunglass manufacturers and distributors from my home district in Texas and The Vision Council (TVC) will be convening a Capitol Hill briefing on the topic of UV danger and protecting your eye health. I encourage my colleagues to attend and applaud the sunglass community and The Vision Council for their leadership in promoting healthy vision.